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Norwegian." Compare *Landsmål*. [Norwegian *riksmål*, "language of the kingdom"; *rik*, kingdom, from Old Norse *rík* (see *reg-* in Appendix*) + *mål*, speech, from Old Norse *mál* (see *mód-* in Appendix*.)]

rile (ril) *tr.v.* riled, riling, riles. 1. To vex; anger; irritate. 2. To stir up (liquid); unsettle; roil. —See Synonyms at annoy. [Variant of *roil*.]

Usage: *Rile* in the sense of vex or anger, though sometimes disparaged as provincial, is not necessarily inappropriate to formal writing. It is acceptable to 69 per cent of the Usage Panel in the example *Her flippancy riled him*.

rile-y (rí'le) *adj.* 1. Riled; upset. 2. Roiled; turbid.

Riley (rí'le), James Whitcomb. 1849–1916. American dialectal poet, "The Hoosier Poet."

Ril-ke (rí'l'ka), Rainer Maria. 1875–1926. Austrian lyric poet and writer.

rill (ril) *n.* Also *rille*. 1. A small brook; rivulet. 2. Any of various long, narrow, straight depressions on the moon's surface. [Dutch *ríl* or Low German *rille*. See *er-* in Appendix*.]

rill-et (rí'l'it) *n.* A small rill.

rim (rim) *n.* 1. The border, edge, or margin of an object. 2. The circular outer part of a wheel, furthest from the axle. 3. A circular metal structure around which a wheel tire is fitted. —See Synonyms at border. —*tr.v.* rimmed, rimming, rims.

1. To furnish with a rim; put a rim around; border. 2. *Sports*. To roll around the rim of (a hole, basket, or cup) without falling in. [Middle English *rimme*, *rym*, Old English *rima*, from Germanic *rimō* (unattested).]

Rim-baud (rân-bô'), (Jean Nicolas) Arthur. 1854–1891. French poet.

rim-e (rim) *n.* A frost or granular ice coating, as on grass and trees; hoarfrost. —*tr.v.* rimed, riming, rimes. To cover with or as if with rime. [Middle English *rim*, Old English *hrima*, from Germanic *hrimaz* (unattested), hoarfrost; —*rim-y* *adj.*]

rim-e². Variant of rhyme.

rim-er. Variant of rhymmer.

rim-e riche (rêm'resh') *pl.* rimes riches (rêm'resh'). Rhyme using words or parts of words that are pronounced identically but have different meanings, for example, *write-right* or *port-deport*. Also called "identical rhyme." [French, "rich rhyme."]

rim-ster. Variant of rhymester.

Rim-i-ni (rim'i-nē; Italian *rî-mî-nî*). A resort and seaport on the Adriatic coast of north-central Italy. Population, 104,000.

Rim-i-ni, Francesca da. See Francesca da Rimini.

rim-mose (rî'môs, rî-môs') *adj.* Full of chinks, cracks, or crevices. [Latin *rimosus*, from *rima*, cleft, crevice, fissure. See *rei-* in Appendix*.] —*rim-mose-ly* *adv.* —*rim-mos-i-ty* (rî-môs'a-tî) *n.*

rim-ple (rim'pl) *n.* A fold; wrinkle; crease. —*v.* rimpled, -pling, -ples. —*tr.* To wrinkle; rumple. —*intr.* To form wrinkles or creases. [Middle English *rymple*, Old English *hrympel*. See *kerb-* in Appendix*.]

Rim-sky-Kor-sa-kov (rim'skê-kôr'sa-kôf; Russian *rêm'skê-kôr'sa-kôf*), Nikolai Andreyevich. 1844–1908. Russian composer.

ring (ring) *n.* 1. A tough outer covering, such as bark, the skin of some fruits, or the coating on cheese or bacon. [Middle English *rinde*, Old English *rinde*.] See *rend-* in Appendix*.] 2. **ring-pest** (ring'dôr-pest') *n.* An acute, contagious virus disease, chiefly of cattle, characterized by ulceration of the intestinal tract. [German *Rinderpest*; *Rinder*, plural of *Rind*, ox, from Old High German (*h)rind* (see *ker-* in Appendix*) + *pestis*, pestilence, plague, from Latin *pestis*, PEST.]

rin-for-zan-do (rên'fôr-tsân'dô) *adj.* Music. With a sudden increase of emphasis. Used as a direction. [Italian, present participle of *rinforzare*, to reinforce; *ri-*, from Latin *re-*, again + *forzare*, from Old French *enforcier*, ENFORCE.]

ring (ring) *n.* 1. Any circular object, form, or arrangement with a vacant circular center. 2. A small circular band, generally made of precious metal, often set with jewels, and worn on a finger. 3. Any circular band used for carrying, holding, or containing something: a *napkin ring*. 4. A circular movement or dance, as in dancing. 5. An enclosed, usually circular area in which exhibitions, sports, or contests take place: a *circus ring*. 6. A rectangular arena set off by stakes and ropes, in which prize fights are held. 7. The sport of prize fighting. 8. An enclosed area in which bets are placed at a racetrack. 9. A book or books collectively. 10. An exclusive group of persons acting together or illegally to advance their own interests, as in business or politics. 11. A field of contenders; contest: *entered the ring of senate aspirants*. 12. Botany. An annual ring (see).

ring-ge-om-etry. The planar area between two concentric circles; annulus. 12. *Algebra*. An algebraic system consisting of a set with two binary operations in the set such that the set together with one operation, usually denoted *addition*, is a commutative group, together with the second, usually denoted *multiplication*, is a semigroup, and multiplication is distributive over addition. 13. Any of the turns comprising a spiral or helix. 14. Chemistry. A group of atoms chemically bound in a manner that is usually representable as a circular form. Also called "closed ring."

ringed, *ringing*, *ringings*. —*tr.* 1. To surround with a ring. 2. To form into a ring or rings. 3. To ornament with a ring or rings. 4. To remove a circular strip of material from the circumference of (a tree trunk or branch): *ringed the trunk of the tree*. 5. To put a ring in the nose of (a pig, bull, or other animal). 6. To hem in (cattle or other animals) by riding in a circle around them. 7. Games. To toss a ring over (a peg). 8. To form a ring or rings. 2. To move, run, or fly in a circular course. [Middle English *ring*, Old English *ring*, from *sker-* in Appendix*.]

ring² (ring) *v.* rang (râng) or nonstandard rung (rûng), rung, ringing, rings. —*intr.* 1. To give forth a clear, resonant sound when caused to vibrate. 2. To cause a bell or bells to sound. 3. To sound a bell in order to summon someone. 4. To have a sound or character suggestive of a particular quality: *a perception that rings true*. 5. To be filled with sound; resound. 6. To hear a persistent humming or buzzing: *ears ringing from the blast*. —*tr.* 1. To cause (a bell, chimes, or the like) to ring. 2. To produce (a sound) by or as if by ringing: "*Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell*" (Shakespeare). 3. a. To announce, proclaim, or signal by or as if by ringing. b. To summon or usher in this way. Used with *in* or *out*: *ring in the new year*. 4. To call (someone) on the telephone. Often used with *up*. 5. To test (a coin or the like) for quality by the sound it produces when struck against something. —*ring* a bell. *Informal*. To arouse a memory, often indistinct. —*n.* 1. The sound created by a bell or other sonorous, vibrating object. 2. Any loud sound, especially one that is repeated or continued. 3. A telephone call. 4. A suggestion of a particular quality: *His offer has a suspicious ring*. 5. A set of bells. 6. An act or instance of sounding a bell. [Middle English *ringen*, Old English *hringan*. See *ker-* in Appendix*.] Rang, rung; Middle English *rang*, *runge*, analogous formations to verbs such as *SING*.]

Usage: *Rang* (not *rung*) is now the usual form in the past tense, especially in written usage: *The telephone rang repeatedly*. In the same example, in speech, *rung* is considered unacceptable by 85 per cent of the Usage Panel.

ring-billed gull (ring'bîld'). A North American gull, *Larus delawarensis*, having a black ring around its bill.

ring-bolt (ring'bôlt') *n.* A bolt having a ring fitted through an eye at its head.

ring-bone (ring'bôn') *n.* A bony growth on the fetlock, pastern, or coffin bone of a horse's foot, usually causing lameness. [It tends to spread around a horse's foot like a ring.]

ring-dove (ring'dûv') *n.* 1. An Old World pigeon, *Streptopelia risoria*, having black markings forming a half circle on the neck. 2. The wood pigeon (see).

ringed (ring'd) *adj.* 1. Wearing or marked with a ring or rings. 2. Encircled or surrounded by bands or rings.

ring-ent (ring'jant) *adj.* Biology. Having gaping liplike parts, as the corolla of some flowers or the shells of certain bivalves. [Latin *ringens*, present participle of *ringi*, to open wide the mouth, gape. See *ricus*.]

ring-er¹ (ring'ôr) *n.* 1. Someone or something that rings. 2. A horseshoe or quoit thrown so that it encircles the peg.

ring-er² (ring'ôr) *n.* 1. One that sounds a bell or chime. 2. Slang. A contestant entered dishonestly into a competition. 3. Slang. A person who bears a striking resemblance to another.

ring finger. The third finger of the left hand.

ring-hals (ring'hâls') *n.* An African snake, *Haemachates haemachatus*, that spits forth its venom at its victims. [Afrikaans *ringhals*, *rinkals*, "ring-necked"; *ring*, ring, circle, from Middle Dutch *ring* (see *sker-* in Appendix*) + *hals*, neck, from Middle Dutch (see *kuel-* in Appendix*.)]

ring-lead-er (ring'lêd'ôr) *n.* A person who leads others, especially in unlawful or improper activities.

ring-let (ring'lit') *n.* 1. A long, spirally curled lock of hair. 2. A small circle or ring. —*ring-let-ed* *adj.*

ring-mas-ter (ring'mâs'tôr, -mâs'tôr) *n.* A person in charge of the performances in a circus ring.

Ring Nebula. A planetary nebula in the constellation Lyra. [From its resemblance to a smoke ring.]

ring-necked pheasant (ring'nêkt'). A widely distributed bird, *Phasianus colchicus*, native to the Old World, of which the male has a long, pointed tail, brightly colored plumage, and a white ring around the neck.

ring-side (ring'sid') *n.* 1. The area or seats immediately outside an arena or ring, as at a prize fight. 2. Any place providing a close view of a spectacle.

ring-tail (ring'tâl') *n.* A ring-tailed animal, such as the cacomistle (see). Also called "ring-tailed cat."

ring-tailed (ring'tâld') *adj.* 1. Having a tail with ringlike markings. 2. Having a tail that curls to form a ring.

ring-worm (ring'würm') *n.* Any of a number of contagious skin diseases caused by several related fungi, and characterized by ring-shaped, scaly, itching patches on the skin.

rink (ringk) *n.* 1. An area surfaced with smooth ice for skating, hockey, or curling. 2. A smooth floor suited for roller-skating. 3. A building that houses a surface prepared for skating. 4. A section of a bowling green large enough for holding a match. 5. A team of players in quoits, bowling, or curling. [Middle English (Scottish) *renk*, *rinck*, race course, from Old French *renc*, *ranc*, row, range, from Frankish *hring* (unattested), ring. See *sker-* in Appendix*.]

rinse (rîns) *tr.v.* rinsed, rinsing, rinses. 1. To wash lightly with water. 2. To remove (soap, dirt, or impurities). —*n.* 1. The act of washing lightly. 2. The water or other solution used in this process. 3. A cosmetic solution used in conditioning or tinting the hair. [Middle English *ryncen*, from Old French *rincer*, *recincier*, probably from Vulgar Latin *recentiäre* (unattested), to refresh, from Latin *recens*, fresh, RECENT.] —*rins-a-bil'i-ty*, *rins-i-bil'i-ty* *n.* —*rins'a-ble*, *rins'i-ble* *adj.* —*rins'ôr* *n.*

Rio Bran-co (rê'ô brâng'kô). 1. A river rising in northern Roraima, Brazil, and flowing south 350 miles to the Rio Negro. 2. The former name for Roraima. 3. The capital of Acre territory, western Brazil. Population, 17,000.

Rio Bra-vo. The Mexican name for the Rio Grande.

Rio de Ja-nei-ro (rê'ô dî ja-nê'rô, zha-nâr'ô; Portuguese *rê'ôô dî zhâ-nâr'ôô*). 1. A major city and seaport of Brazil, in the



ringmaster
Drawing of a ringmaster with clown, by A.B. Frost



ring-necked pheasant
A male of the species

thin, path/îth this, bathe/û cut/ûr urge/v valve/w with/y yes/z zebra, size/zh vision/a about, item, edible, gallop, circus/ô Fr. feu, Ger. schön/û Fr. tu, Ger. über/кн Ger. ich, Scot. loch/N Fr. bon. *Follows main vocabulary. †Of obscure origin.

stron-gyle (strôn'jil') *n.* Also **stron-gyl** (-jəl). Any of various nematode worms of the family Strongylidae, often parasitic in the gastrointestinal tract of mammals, especially horses. [New Latin *Strongylus* (genus), from Greek *strongylos*, round, compactly formed.]

stron-ti-um (strôn'chē-ə-nī', -tē-ə-nī') *n.* A gray to yellowish-green strontium ore, essentially SrCO_3 . [Strontian, variant of STRONTIUM + -ITE.]

stron-ti-um (strôn'chē-əm, -tē-əm) *n.* Symbol **Sr**. A soft, silvery, easily oxidized metallic element that ignites spontaneously in air when finely divided. Strontium is used in pyrotechnic compounds and various alloys. Atomic number 38, atomic weight 87.62, melting point 769°C , boiling point $1,384^\circ\text{C}$, specific gravity 2.54, valence 2. See **element**. [Discovered in Strontian, mining village in Argyllshire, Scotland.] —**stron'tic** (-tik) *adj.*

strontium 90. The strontium isotope with mass 90, having a half-life of 28 years, used for its high-energy beta emission in certain nuclear electric power sources and constituting a radiation hazard in fallout.

strop (ströp) *n.* A flexible strip of leather or canvas used for sharpening a razor. —*tr.v.* **stropped**, **stropping**, **strops**. To sharpen (a razor) on a strop. [Middle English *stroppe*, band of leather, from Middle Low German or Middle Dutch *strop*, from West Germanic *strupa* (unattested), from Latin *stroppus*, from Greek *strophos*, twisted cord, from *strephō*, to turn. See **streph-** in Appendix.*]

stro-phan-thin (strō-fan'thōn) *n.* A toxic glycoside or mixture of glycosides used medicinally as a cardiac tonic. [New Latin *Strophanthus* (genus): Greek *strophos*, twisted cord (see **strop**) + *anthos*, flower (see **and-** in Appendix*) + -IN.]

stro-phe (strō'fē, strō'fē) *n.* *Abbr.* **st.** 1. *a.* A stanza, especially the first of a pair of stanzas of alternating form on which the structure of a given poem is based. *b.* A rhythmic system constituting a section of a poem, typically consisting of a series of asymmetric lines. 2. The first division of the triad (strophe, antistrophe, and epode) constituting a section of a Pindaric ode. 3. *a.* The movement of the chorus in classical Greek drama while turning from one side of the orchestra to the other. *b.* The part of a choral ode sung while this movement is executed. [Greek *strophē*, a turning, from *strephō*, to turn. See **streph-** in Appendix.*] —**stroph'ic** *adj.*

stroph-u-lus (strōf'yū-ləs) *n.* A disease, especially common among children, sometimes associated with intestinal disturbances and characterized by a papular eruption of the skin. Also called "red gum." [New Latin, from Greek *strophos*, twisted cord, from *strephō*, to turn. See **streph-** in Appendix.*]

stroud (stroud) *n.* A coarse woolen cloth or blanket. [After *Stroud*, textile manufacturing center in Gloucestershire, England.]

stroke. Past tense of **strive**.
struck (strūk). Past tense and past participle of **strike**. —*adj.* Affected or shut down by a labor strike.

struck jury. *Law*. A jury, particularly a special jury, selected from an original panel of 48 members from which each party strikes off names until the list is reduced to 12.

struck measure. A dry measure having the contents leveled off and not heaped.

struc-tur-al (strūk'chər-əl) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, having, or characterized by structure. 2. Used in or necessary to construction. 3. *Geology*. Pertaining to the structure of rocks and other aspects of the earth's crust. 4. *Biology*. Of or relating to organic structure; morphological. —**struc'tur-al-ly** *adv.*

structural formula. A chemical formula that represents the configuration of atoms and bonds in a molecule.

struc-tur-al-ize (strūk'chər-ə-līz') *tr.v.* -ized, -izing, -izes. To incorporate into a structure. —**struc'tur-al-i-za'tion** *n.*

structural steel. Steel shaped for use in construction.

struc-ture (strūk'chər) *n.* 1. A complex entity. 2. *a.* The configuration of elements, parts, or constituents in such an entity; organization; arrangement. *b.* Constitution; make-up. 3. The interrelation of parts or the principle of organization in a complex entity. 4. Relatively intricate or extensive organization: *an elaborate electric structure*. 5. Something constructed, especially a building or part. —See **Synonyms** at building. —*tr.v.* **structured**, -**uring**, -**ures**. To construct; give form or arrangement to. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *structūra*, from *struere* (past participle *structus*), to construct. See **ster-** in Appendix.*]

struc-tured (strūk'chəd) *adj.* 1. Highly organized: *a structured environment*. 2. *Psychology*. Having a limited number of correct or nearly correct answers. Said of a test. Compare **unstructured**.

strudel (strōd'əl) *n.* A kind of pastry made with fruit or cheese rolled up in a thin sheet of dough and baked. [German *Strudel*, from Middle High German *strudel*, whirlpool. See **ser-** in Appendix.*]

strug-gle (strūg'əl) *v.* -gled, -gling, -gles. —*intr.* 1. To exert muscular energy, as against a material force or mass; grapple; wrestle. 2. To be strenuously engaged with a problem, task, undertaking, or the like. 3. To make any strenuous effort; strive: *struggling to be polite*. 4. *a.* To contend against: *"the human being struggles with his environment"* (Karl A. Menninger). *b.* To compete with. 5. To progress or penetrate with difficulty. —*tr.* To move or place (something) with an effort: *struggle a trunk into a car*. —*n.* 1. An act of struggling. 2. Strenuous effort. 3. Combat; strife. [Middle English *struglen*.] —**strug'gler** *n.* —**strug'gling-ly** *adv.*

strum (strūm) *v.* strummed, strumming, strums. —*tr.* To play idly on or as if on (a stringed musical instrument) by plucking the strings with the fingers. —*intr.* To play an instrument in

this manner. —*n.* The act or sound of strumming. [Perhaps blend of **STRING** and **THRUM**.] —**strum'mer** *n.*

stru-ma (strōō'mə) *n.*, *pl.* -mae (-mē) or -mas. 1. *Pathology*. *a.* Scrofula (see). *b.* Goiter (see). 2. *Botany*. A cushionlike swelling at the base of a moss capsule. [Latin *strūma*, tumor.] —**stru-mat'ic** (-māt'ik), **stru-mose'** (-mōs'), **stru'mous** (-mōs) *adj.*

Stru-ma (strōō'mə). *Greek* *Stry-mon* (stri'mən), *Stri-mon*. A river rising in southwestern Bulgaria near Sofia and flowing 215 miles generally southeast through Greece to the Aegean.

strum-pet (strūm'pīt) *n.* A whore. [Middle English *strōmpet*.]

strung. Past tense and past participle of **string**.

strut (strūt) *v.* strutted, strutting, struts. —*intr.* To walk with pompous bearing; to swagger. —*tr.* To brace with a strut or struts. —*n.* 1. A stiff, self-important gait. 2. A bar or rod used to strengthen a framework by resisting longitudinal thrust. [Middle English *strouten*, to swell, stand out, protrude, Old English *strūtian*, to stand out stiffly. See **ster-** in Appendix.*] —**strut'ter** *n.* —**strut'ting-ly** *adv.*

stru-thi-ous (strōō'thē-əs, -thē-əs) *adj.* Of, pertaining to, or resembling the ostrich or a related bird. [From Latin *strūthiō*, ostrich, from Greek *strouthion*, from *strouthos*, sparrow, ostrich. See **troz-** in Appendix.*]

Strutt, John William. See **Lord Rayleigh**.

Stru-ve (shtrōō'və), **Friedrich Georg Wilhelm von**. 1793–1864. German-born Russian astronomer; first measured the parallax of Vega; great-grandfather of Otto Struve.

Stru-ve (strōō'və), **Otto**, 1897–1963. Russian-born American astronomer; discovered interstellar matter.

strych-nine (stri'k'nīn', -nən, -nēn') *n.* An extremely poisonous white crystalline alkaloid, $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$, derived from nux vomica and related plants, and used as a poison for rodents and other pests and medicinally as a stimulant for the central nervous system. [French, from New Latin *Strychnos*, genus of plants including nux vomica, from Latin *strychnos*, nightshade, from Greek *strukhnōs*.]

St. Thomas (sānt tōm'əs). 1. The second-largest (28 square miles) of the Virgin Islands of the United States. Population, 30,000. 2. The former name for Charlotte Amalie.

Stu-art (stōō'art, styōō'-). Also **Steu-art**, **Stew-art**. Family name of rulers of Scotland (1371–1707), England (1603–1707), and Great Britain (1707–14).

Stu-art (stōō'art, styōō'-), **Charles Edward**. Called "Bonnie Prince Charlie" and "the Young Pretender." 1720–1788. Pretender to the British throne; son of James Francis Edward Stuart.

Stu-art (stōō'art), **Gilbert Charles**. 1755–1828. American portraitist; noted for his portraits of George Washington.

Stu-art (stōō'art), **James Ewell Brown** ("Jeb"). 1833–1864. American Confederate general in the Civil War.

Stu-art (stōō'art, styōō'-), **James Francis Edward**. Called "the Old Pretender." 1688–1766. Pretender to the British throne; son of James II; father of Charles Edward Stuart.

stub (stüb) *n.* 1. *a.* The short blunt end remaining after something has been cut, broken off, or worn down, as the stump of a tree, tooth, or pencil. *b.* A cigar or cigarette butt. *c.* Any article that has been shortened, blunted, or worn down. 2. *a.* The counterfoil of a check or receipt. *b.* The part of a ticket returned as a voucher of payment. —*tr.v.* **stubbed**, **stubby**, **stubs**. 1. To pull up (weeds) by the roots. 2. To clear (a field) of stubs. 3. To strike (one's toe or foot) against something.

4. To snuff out (a cigarette butt) by crushing. [Middle English *stubby*, Old English *stybb*, *stubb*. See **steu-** in Appendix.*]

stub-ble (stüb'əl) *n.* 1. The short, stiff stalks of a grain or hay crop remaining on a field after the crop has been harvested. 2. Anything resembling stubble. [Middle English *stuble*, from Old French, from Latin *stupa*, variant of *stipula*, straw. See **stipula**.] —**stub'bly** *adj.*

stub-born (stüb'ərn) *adj.* 1. *a.* Unduly determined to exert one's will; refractory. *b.* Not easily persuaded; obstinate. 2. Characterized by perseverance; persistent. 3. Difficult to handle or work; resistant: *stubborn soil*. —See **Synonyms** at **contrary**, **obstinate**. [Middle English *stobornet*.] —**stub'born-ly** *adv.* —**stub'born-ness** *n.*

stub-by (stüb'ē) *adj.* -bler, -biest. 1. Having the nature of a stub; short and stocky. 2. Covered with or consisting of stubs. 3. Short and bristly. —**stub'bi-ly** *adv.* —**stub'bi-ness** *n.*

stub nail. A short, thick nail.

stucco (stūk'ō) *n.*, *pl.* -coes or -cos. 1. A durable finish for exterior walls, applied wet and usually composed of cement, sand, and lime. 2. A fine plaster for interior wall ornamentation, such as moldings. 3. Any plaster or cement finish for interior walls. —*tr.v.* **stuccoed**, -**coing**, -**coes** or -**cos**. To finish or decorate with stucco. [Italian, from Old High German *stukka*, fragment, crust, covering. See **steu-** in Appendix.*]

stuck. Past tense and past participle of **stick**.

stuck-up (stūk'ūp) *adj.* Informal. Snobbish; conceited.

stud (stūd) *n.* 1. An upright post in the framework of a wall for supporting sheets of lath, wallboard, or the like. 2. A small knob, nail head, rivet, or the like fixed in and slightly projecting from a surface. 3. *a.* A small ornamental button mounted on a short post for insertion through an eyelet, as on a dress shirt. *b.* A buttonlike earring. 4. Any of various protruding pins or pegs in machinery. 5. A metal crosspiece used as a brace in a link, as in a chain cable. —*tr.v.* **studded**, **studding**, **studs**. 1. To provide with or construct with a stud or studs. 2. To set with a stud or studs; fix a stud in: *stud a bracelet with rubies*. 3. To be dotted about on, especially ornamentally; strew: *Daisies studded*



strut
The Hermes of Praxiteles



Gilbert Stuart
A self-portrait

the meadow. [Middle English *stode*, post, prop, Old English *studu*, *stuthu*. See *sta-* in Appendix.*]

stud (stüd) *n.* 1. a. A group of animals, especially horses, kept for breeding. b. A stable or farm where they are kept. 2. A stallion or other male animal kept for breeding. 3. Stud poker. —*et* (or *in*) *stud*. Available or offered for breeding. —*adj.* 1. Of or pertaining to a stud or studs. 2. Kept for breeding. [Middle English *stod*, Old English *stod*, stable for breeding. See *sta-* in Appendix.*]

stud student.

stud-book (stüd'bōk) *n.* A book registering the pedigrees of thoroughbred animals, especially of horses.

stud-ding (stüd'ing) *n.* 1. a. The wood framework of a wall or partition. b. Lumber cut for studs. 2. That with which a surface is studded.

stud-ding-sail (stüd'sel) *n.* Nautical. A narrow rectangular sail set from extensions of the yards of square-rigged ships. [Perhaps from Middle Low German and Middle Dutch *stöttinge*, a thrusting, from *stōten*, to force. See *steu-* in Appendix.*]

stud-dent (stüd'dent, styōō'-) *n.* *Abbr.* *stud.* 1. One who attends a school, college, or university. 2. One who makes a study of something. [Middle English, from Latin *studēns*, present participle of *studere*, to study, be diligent. See *steu-* in Appendix.*]

student teacher. A college student who practices teaching under supervision.

stud-fish (stüd'fish) *n.* *Pl.* *studfish* or *-fishes*. Either of two small, brightly colored freshwater fishes, *Fundulus catenatus* or *F. stellifer*, of the southeastern United States. [Perhaps from *stud* (post).]

stud-horse (stüd'hōrs) *n.* Also *stud horse*. A stallion.

stud-ied (stüd'ed) *adj.* 1. a. Carefully contrived; deliberate; calculated: a studied effect. b. Lacking spontaneity: a studied smile. 2. Rare. Learned. —*stud'ied-ly* *adv.* —*stud'ied-ness* *n.*

stu-di-o (stüd'ē-ō, styōō'-) *n.* *pl.* *-os*. 1. An artist's workshop. 2. A photographer's establishment. 3. An establishment where an art is taught or studied: a dance studio. 4. A room or building for motion-picture, television, or radio productions. [Italian, from Latin *studium*, *studij*.]

studio couch. A couch that can serve as a bed.

stu-di-ous (stüd'ē-əs, styōō'-) *adj.* 1. Devoted to study. 2. Earnest; diligent. 3. Giving or evincing careful attention; heedful: "the major" was very studious of his appearance" (H.E. Bates). 4. Rare. Deliberate. 5. Conducive to study. [Middle English, from Latin *studiosus*, from *studium*, *studij*.] —*stu'di-ous-ly* *adv.* —*stu'di-ous-ness* *n.*

stud poker. Poker in which the first round of cards (and often the last) is dealt face down and the others face up. [From *stud* (breeding).]

stud-work (stüd'wōrk) *n.* 1. Work ornamented or covered with studs. 2. The supportive framework of a wall or partition.

stud-y (stüd'ē) *n.* *pl.* *-ies*. 1. The act or process of studying; the pursuit of knowledge, as by reading, observation, or research. 2. Attentive scrutiny. 3. A branch of knowledge. 4. *Plural*. A branch or department of learning; something to be studied: graduate studies. 5. a. A work resulting from studious endeavor, as a monograph or thesis. b. A literary work on a particular subject. c. A preliminary sketch, as for a work of art. 6. A musical composition designed as a technical exercise; an étude. 7. A state of mental absorption: He's in a deep study. 8. A room intended or equipped for studying. 9. a. One who memorizes something; especially, an actor with reference to his ability to memorize a part. b. The memorizing of a part in a play. —*v.* *studied*, *-ying*, *-ies*. —*tr.* 1. To apply one's mind purposefully to the acquisition of knowledge or understanding of (any subject): study a language. 2. To read carefully: study a book. 3. To memorize. 4. To take (a course) at a school. 5. To inquire into; investigate: study the mood of the country. 6. To examine closely; scrutinize: study a diagram. 7. To give careful thought to; contemplate: study the next move. —*intr.* 1. To apply oneself to learning, especially by reading. 2. To pursue a course of study. 3. To ponder; reflect; meditate. [Middle English *studie*, from Old French *estudie*, from Latin *studium*, from *studere*, to be eager, study. See *steu-* in Appendix.*]

study hall. 1. A schoolroom reserved for study. 2. A period set aside for study.

stuff (stuf) *n.* 1. The material out of which something is made or formed; substance. 2. The basic substance or essential elements of anything; essence: the stuff heroes are made of. 3. Material not specifically identified. 4. Informal. Household or personal articles collectively; belongings. 5. Worthless objects; refuse or junk. 6. Foolish or empty words or ideas. Used to express impatience or derision in the interjection *stuff and nonsense*. 7. British. Woven material; especially, woollens. 8. Slang. Money; cash. —*v.* *stuffed*, *stuffing*, *stuffs*. —*tr.* 1. a. To pack tightly; fill up; cram: stuff a Christmas stocking. b. To block (a passage); obstruct. 2. a. To fill with an appropriate stuffing: stuff a pillow; stuff a cabbage. b. To fill (an animal skin) to restore its natural form. 3. To cram with food. 4. To fill (the mind). Often used derogatorily: His head is stuffed with silly notions. 5. To put fraudulent votes into (a ballot box). 6. To apply a preservative and softening agent to (leather). —*intr.* To overeat; gorge. [Middle English *stuff(e)*, from Old French *estoffe*, provisions, from *estoffer*, to cram, pad, from Germanic *stopfōn* (unattested), from Late Latin *stuppāre*, to plug up, from Latin *stuppā*, plug, cork, from Greek *stuppē*. See *stewe-* in Appendix.*] —*stuffed* *derma*. *Derma* (see).

stuffed shirt. Informal. A stiff, pompous person.

stuff-ing (stüd'ing) *n.* Material used to stuff or fill, especially:

a. Padding put in cushions and upholstered furniture. b. Food put in the cavity of meat or vegetables.

stuffing box. An enclosure containing packing to prevent leakage around a moving machine part.

stuff-y (stüf'ē) *adj.* *-ier*, *-iest*. 1. Lacking sufficient ventilation; airless; close. 2. Having the respiratory passages blocked. 3. Informal. a. Dull: a stuffy dinner party. b. Formal; strait-laced. —*stuff'ily* *adv.* —*stuff'i-ness* *n.*

stull (stül) *n.* 1. A timber or other prop supporting the roof of a mine opening. 2. A platform braced against the sides of a working area in a mine. [Perhaps from German *Stollen*, a prop, from Old High German *stollo*. See *stel-* in Appendix.*]

stul-ti-fy (stül'tō-fī) *tr.v.* *-fied*, *-fying*, *-fies*. 1. To render useless or ineffectual; cripple. 2. To cause to appear stupid, inconsistent, or ridiculous. 3. Law. To allege or prove insane and so not legally responsible. [Late Latin *stultificāre*: Latin *stultus*, foolish (see *stel-* in Appendix*) + *facere*, to make (see *dhē-* in Appendix*).] —*stul'ti-fi-ca'tion* *n.* —*stul'ti-fi'er* *n.*

stum (stüm) *n.* 1. Unfermented or partly fermented grape juice; must. 2. Vapid wine renewed by an admixture of stum. —*tr.v.* *stunned*, *stunning*, *stuns*. To ferment (vapid wine) by adding stum. [Dutch, from *stom*, unfermented, dumb, mute, translation of French (*vin*) *muet*, "mute (wine)," from Middle Dutch. See *stam-* in Appendix.*]

stum-ble (stüm'bal) *v.* *-bled*, *-bling*, *-bles*. —*intr.* 1. a. To miss one's step in walking or running; to trip and almost fall. b. To proceed unsteadily or falteringly; to flounder. c. To act or speak falteringly or clumsily. 2. To make a mistake; to blunder. 3. To fall into evil ways; err. 4. To come upon accidentally or unexpectedly: "The urge to wider voyages... caused men to stumble upon new America" (Kenneth Cragg). —*tr.* To cause to stumble. —*n.* 1. The act of stumbling. 2. A mistake, blunder, or sin. [Middle English *stumbelen*, perhaps from Old Norse *stumla* (unattested). See *stam-* in Appendix.*] —*stum'-bler* *n.* —*stum'-bling-ly* *adv.*

stum-ble-bum (stüm'bal-büm) *n.* Slang. 1. A punch-drunk or second-rate prize fighter. 2. A blundering or inept person.

stumbling block. An obstacle or impediment.

stump (stümp) *n.* 1. The part of a tree trunk left protruding from the ground after the tree has fallen or been felled. 2. Any part, as of a branch, limb, or tooth, remaining after the main part has been cut away, broken off, or worn down. 3. a. *Plural*. Informal. The legs. b. An artificial leg. 4. A short, thickest person. 5. A heavy footfall. 6. A platform or other place used for political or campaign oratory. 7. A short, pointed roll of leather or paper or wad of rubber for rubbing on a charcoal or pencil drawing to shade or soften it. 8. In cricket, any one of the three upright sticks in a wicket. —*be up a stump*. To be in a quandary. —*tr.v.* *stumped*, *stumping*, *stumps*. 1. To reduce to a stump; lop; truncate. 2. To clear stumps, from: *stump a field*. 3. To stub (a toe or foot). 4. To traverse (a district) making political speeches. 5. To shade (a drawing) with a stump. 6. Informal. To challenge (someone); defy; dare. 7. Informal. To bring to a halt; perplex; baffle. [Middle English *stampe*, from Middle Low German *stamp*. See *stebh-* in Appendix.*] —*stump'er* *n.* —*stump'i-ness* *n.* —*stump'y* *adj.*

stump-age (stüm'pij) *n.* 1. Standing timber regarded as a commodity. 2. The value of standing timber. 3. The right to cut such timber.

stun (stün) *tr.v.* *stunned*, *stunning*, *stuns*. 1. To daze or render senseless, as by a blow. 2. To overwhelm or daze with a loud noise. 3. To stupefy, as with the emotional impact of an experience; astound; overwhelm. —*n.* A blow or shock that stupefies. [Middle English *stonen*, from Old French *estoner*, from Vulgar Latin *extondere* (unattested): Latin *ex-* (intensive) + *tonāre*, to thunder (see *stene-* in Appendix*).]

stung. Past tense and past participle of *sting*.

stunk. Past participle and alternate past tense of *stink*.

stun-ner (stün'ər) *n.* 1. One that stuns. 2. Informal. An exceptionally good-looking person.

stun-ning (stün'ing) *adj.* 1. Causing or capable of causing loss of consciousness or emotional shock. 2. Informal. Of a strikingly attractive appearance. —*stun'ning-ly* *adv.*

stunt (stünt) *tr.v.* *stunted*, *stunting*, *stunts*. 1. To check the growth or development of. 2. To check (growth or development). —*n.* 1. One that stunts. 2. One that is stunted. 3. A plant disease that causes dwarfing. [Perhaps from Middle English *stont*, short in duration (but influenced in sense by Old Norse cognate *stuttr*, short, dwarfish), Old English *stunt*, dull, half-witted. See *steu-* in Appendix.*] —*stunt'-ed-ness* *n.*

stunt (stünt) *n.* 1. A feat displaying unusual strength, skill, or daring. 2. Something of an unusual nature done for publicity. —*intr.v.* *stunted*, *stunting*, *stunts*. To perform a stunt or stunts. [Origin unknown.]

stunt man. In motion-picture production, one who substitutes for an actor in scenes requiring physical prowess or involving physical risk.

stu-pa (stüō'pā) *n.* A shrine, *topos* (see). [Sanskrit *stūpa*, "tuft of hair," "crown of head." See *stewe-* in Appendix.*]

stupe (stüōp, styōōp) *n.* A hot medicated compress. [Middle English, from Latin *stuppā*, tow, plug, from Greek *stuppē*. See *stewe-* in Appendix.*]

stu-pe-fa-cient (stüō'pā-fā'shənt, styōō'-) *adj.* Also *stu-pe-fac-tive* (-fāk'tiv). Inducing stupor; stupefying. —*n.* A drug that induces stupor, as a narcotic. [Latin *stupefaciens*, present participle of *stupefacere*, *STUPEFY*.]

stu-pe-fac-tion (stüō'pā-fāk'shən, styōō'-) *n.* 1. The act of stupefying. 2. The state of being stupefied. 3. Great astonishment or consternation.



studfish
Fundulus catenatus